

**Maryland E-Nnovation Initiative Fund Authority**  
**Monday, February 28, 2022**  
**9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

Call In Number

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The Maryland E-Nnovation Initiative Fund Authority (“MEIFA” or the “Authority”) convened a meeting via conference call at 9:00 a.m. on February 28, 2022. A quorum was present.

**Members:**

Robert Hallenbeck, Chair  
Stephen Auvil, Executive Vice President, Operations & Programs, TEDCO  
Troy Stovall, CEO, Maryland Technology Development Corporation (TEDCO)  
Sarah Sheppard, Designee of the Secretary of the Maryland Department of Commerce  
Renee Winsky, President & CEO Leadership Maryland, President & Founder, Bay One Group, LLC  
Dr. Jay Perman, Chancellor, University System of Maryland  
Jack Miner, Chief Investment Officer, TEDCO

**Staff, Guests, and Representatives:**

Barbara Kountz, Deputy Counsel to Maryland Department of Commerce,  
Assistant Attorney General  
Connie Page, Administrative Associate, Office of Strategic Industries & Entrepreneurship,  
Maryland Department of Commerce  
Lindsay Ryan, Interim Vice Chancellor, Economic Development, University System of Maryland  
Mary Pooton, Associate Dean for Development, University of Maryland  
Emily Greene, Director of Development, Neurosciences, University of Maryland  
J. Marc Simard, MD, PhD, University of Maryland  
Howard M. Eisenberg, MD, Professor, University of Maryland  
Valerie Stewart, Associate Director, Institutional Giving and Stewardship, Washington College  
John Seidel, Ph.D., Director, Center for Environment & Society; Lamont du Pont Copeland  
Associate Professor of Anthropology and Environmental Studies  
Michael Hardesty, River and Field Campus Director; Associate Director of Programs and Staff

**Call Meeting to Order:**

Chair Robert Hallenbeck called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**Roll Call: Introduction of Authority Members and Others in Attendance:**

Barbara Kountz initiated roll call for Members, staff, and guests in attendance. Those in attendance: Chair Hallenbeck, Ms. Winsky, Ms. Sheppard, Mr. Auvil, Mr. Miner, Mr. Stovall,

Dr. Perman, Ms. Kountz, Ms. Page, Ms. Ryan, Ms. Pooton, Ms. Green, Dr. Simard, Dr. Eisenberg, Ms. Stewart, Dr. Seidel, and Mr. Hardesty.

### **Review and Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

After motion duly made and seconded, the Authority members approved the minutes for the open sessions of the meetings held on August 13, 2021 and October 19, 2021.

### **MEIF Updates (Sarah Sheppard)**

Ms. Sheppard updated the Authority on FY 22 budget. She noted that originally the budget amendments were put in for processing. Now the Department of Budget and Management have asked for the request to spend the funds be in the supplemental budget. The Authority would have to wait for the budget to pass to draw down all of the awarded funds but could still make a decision today with conditional language placed in the award letter. Ms. Sheppard also updated the Authority on Senate Bill 473. MEIFA and Commerce did not take a position on this bill.

### **Washington College – Chair in Sustainable Food Systems/Eastern Shore Food Lab (ESEL) – Discussion on Request to Modify Research Endowment Plan to redirect funds and establish the Director of Regenerative Agriculture at the River and Field Campus (RAFC).**

Mr. Hardesty, Mr. Seidel and Ms. Stewart presented the request from Washington College to repurpose the original use of the funds from endowing the Chair in Sustainable Food Systems/Eastern Shore Food Lab to establish the Director of Regenerative Agriculture at the River and Field Campus. The success of the program and its economic impact was discussed.

#### **After Discussion:**

Chair Hallenbeck motioned to approve the modification; Ms. Winsky seconded. The motion was approved (unanimously).

### **University of Maryland Baltimore – Howard M. Eisenberg, MD Distinguished Professorship in Neurosurgery – Discussion on Request to Modify Research Endowment Plan.**

Ms. Pooton, Mr. Eisenberg and Mr. Sinard explained the reasons for and the benefits of the request to modify the research endowment plan by using the funds for the retention and support of the current Department of Neurosurgery chair, Dr. Graeme Woodworth, MD, and for future use in recruiting a Department of Neurosurgery chair.

#### **After Discussion:**

Troy Stovall motioned to approve the modification of the research endowment plan; Renee Winsky seconded. The motion was approved (unanimously).

### **Discussion on tuition benefits as a part of graduate or undergraduate fellowship research positions:**

The Authority discussed whether it considered the payment of tuition benefits to graduate or undergraduate students working to support approved research endowment plans to be allowable uses of the MEIF funds.

**After Discussion:**

Stephen Auvil motioned to approve tuition benefits as part of graduate or undergraduate fellowship research; Dr. Perman, Seconded. The motion was approved (unanimously).

**Approval of Closed Session**

**At 10:17 a.m.,** Mr Hallenbeck stated a vote was required to close the meeting to discuss applications which contain confidential information. At Chair Hallenbeck's request, Ms. Kountz stated, the statutory reasons for closing the meeting were §3-305(b)(13) and (b)(7) of the Open Meetings Act, (a) to comply with a specific statutory requirement that prevents public disclosure about a particular proceeding or matter, and (b) to consult with legal counsel with respect to legal matters with respect to such applications and an amendment request. It was noted that the applications include financial information of private individuals (donors), which is information protected from disclosure under §4-336 of the Maryland Public Information Act. It was further noted that Chair Hallenbeck had signed the Presiding Officer's Written Statement for Closing a Meeting under the Open Meetings Act, which is attached to these minutes as an Exhibit.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously,

RESOLVED, that the Authority move into Closed Session in accordance with §3-305(b)(13) and (b)(7) of the Open Meetings Act (OMA), to discuss the revision of a research endowment plan, which includes financial information of private individuals, and to consult with legal counsel with respect to legal matters with respect to such applications.

Chair Hallenbeck then proceeded with the roll call. The following members (and designee) of the Authority were present during the closed session: Chair Hallenbeck, Mr. Auvil, Mr. Glover, Ms. Sheppard, Dr. Perman, Mr. Stovall and Ms. Winsky. Ms. Kountz, Ms. Ryan, and Ms. Page also remained for the closed session.

At 11:40, the Authority returned to open session.

**Announcement of Authority Actions/Decisions During Closed Session**

- **Bowie State University – Cyber – Entrepreneurship Innovations, \$500,000, APPROVED**
- **Goucher College – Endowed Professorship in Environmental Sustainability, \$510,000, DISAPPROVED**
- **Hood College – Endowed Director of the Biomedical Research and Training Center, \$1,000,000 REQUESTED, APPROVED; \$510,000 AWARDED DUE TO LACK OF FUNDS**

- **Notre Dame of Maryland University – Dr. Mary Kay Shartle Galotto '64 Endowed Chair in Biological Sciences, \$1,000,000, FAILED DUE TO LACK OF A MOTION**
- **University of Maryland Baltimore – Woodside Distinguished Professorship in Financial Social Work and Economic Justice, \$500,000, FAILED DUE TO LACK OF A MOTION**
- **University of Maryland College Park – IonQ Professorship, \$1,000,000, FAILED DUE TO LACK OF A MOTION**

All approvals and declinations were made unanimously.

**Date of Next MEIF Application Deadline:** June 1, 2022

**Date of Next MEIF Authority Meeting:** TBD

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made, duly seconded, and unanimously approved at 11:35 a.m.